



IHS boys save 7th in Aztec • from page 1

point games — without a three-point arc.

Which, barely two hours after ceremonies of statehood started — commemorating President William H. Taft's proclamation on Jan. 6, 1912 — was precisely where Bloomfield appeared willing to remain on Friday, Jan. 6 to defuse the Ignacio High School boys — again.

The Bore-cats' frequent, motionless wasting of time on offense hadn't changed since facing the Bobcats last month. Neither had reliance on elbows to free themselves from IHS pressure.

Not much had changed at all, until a ridiculous five-point play with 106 seconds left stole not only the lead, but whatever momentum Ignacio still had from the previous night's near-upset in the opening round of the 2012 "Rumble in the Jungle" in Aztec, N.M.

With senior Shane Richmond having pierced eighth-ranked [NMHSCA Class 4A poll] Piedra Vista of Farmington for 37 points in a 60-58 loss, it was obvious that BHS was not only going to limit his touches, but Ignacio's as a whole. Still, Bloomfield's Bobcats found themselves trailing 31-30 with time no longer in their full favor — until sophomore Ryan Johnson attempted a layup on a breakaway.

Not knowing IHS soph Justin Carver's jumping ability, Carver not only tracked Johnson down from behind, but also rejected the shot away from the rim as it was rising. But what should have gone down as the defensive stop of the game was ruled a foul, with a goaltending infraction attached.

Johnson sank his "and-one" free throw, and senior Clay Payne followed with two more after Carver was hit with a technical foul for a brief protest. Suddenly, with multiple players in foul trouble — including Richmond; Carver and guard Clayton Jefferson would foul out — Ignacio needed a quick reawakening that never materialized after a contest, finalized at 38-32, badly needing a shot clock.

Carver and senior Xavier Watts each netted nine points, Jefferson and freshman Adison Jones each had five, Richmond ended with three FT's in four tries, and soph Adam Herrera was 1-2 at the stripe. Payne paced Bloomfield — which led 9-6 after one quarter, trailed 17-14 after two, and re-led 25-22 after three — with 18 points (12-14 FT). Johnson and point guard Erik



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Adison Jones (33) takes a shove in the back while attempting to rebound against Bloomfield, N.M., during Day 2 action at the 2012 "Rumble in the Jungle" in Aztec, N.M.

Miller each scored seven.

Sinking 12 of 15 FT's versus PV — with Richmond and Jones accounting for all attempts — the Cats were behind 29-28 at half-time and 44-42 when the fourth quarter began. The Watts-Jefferson backcourt produced no points, but was crucial in containing Panther starters Ray deKay, Aaron Welch, and Isiah Valdez to a combined nine points.

Richmond, Jones (eight), and soph Kelton Richmond (seven) combined for 52 up front — more than enough to offset Ty Jacquez's 17 and Satchel Baker's eight. With regular Jacob Armijo injured, sixth-man Dakota Vigil helped make the difference with 15 points off the bench, but not until a long Richmond miss inside the final minute could Piedra Vista — and everyone inside Lillywhite Gym — exhale in relief.

With San Juan Basin League play resuming only three days (Jan. 10 at Dolores, results unavailable at press time) later, Ignacio got its motor restarted in the Rumble's seventh-place game an afternoon after losing to BHS. Facing 4A Miyamura [Gallup, N.M.], the Cats blew open a 27-

13 halftime lead after restricting the Patriots to just three points in the second quarter, and coasted to a 56-41 victory.

Richmond worked for 23 points (11-13 FT), easily canceling MHS's Jarred Meese (nine) and Isaac Padilla (eight). Jefferson added ten points for IHS, Jones nine, Carver five and Herrera four — on free throws during the team's 22-point fourth quarter (in which Richmond was 8-of-8 at the line).

Pat Fouser chipped in five points as nine Pats scored overall, opposed to Ignacio's eight.

League action awaits the Bobcats (5-3, 2-0 SJB), ninth-ranked in 2A prior to the tourney, this weekend with a trip to Norwood on Friday, Jan. 13 and a home date with Nucla the following afternoon.

FINAL "RUMBLE" PLACINGS: Championship — 3A Shiprock [N.M.] 68-63 over PV. Third-place game — 4A Montezuma-Cortez [Colo.] 57-46 over 4A Aztec. Fifth-place game — Bloomfield 49-41 over 2A Magdalena [N.M.]. Seventh-place game — IGNACIO 56-41 over Miyamura.

Lady 'Cats swipe 7th in Kirtland

By Joel Priest

Special to the Drum

Free throws ultimately decided — or didn't (both teams were a combined 0-8 in the final 1:25) — the seventh-place game last weekend at the Webb Toyota/Kirtland [N.M.] Central Girls' Basin Invitational.

How many Ignacio junior Mariah Vigil made — well, only a select few inside Bronco Arena really knew. The official scoreboard-keeper, however, wasn't one of them. And Vigil?

To the Bloomfield [N.M.] Lady Bobcats, she was finally out of sight — having fouled out at that 1:25 mark in the fourth quarter — and, unfortunately, out of mind. She'd been a priority for Dan Larabee's players to contain, having registered 24 points and 11 rebounds on Day 1, and then another 17 points on Day 2 — both efforts coming against much higher-rated opponents.

And her getting to the foul line (14 FT's attempted on Day 1, 12 on Day 2) was a cause for alarm. Being as though it was the early-bird game on a Saturday, tired eyes at courtside may have jumped the gun — and possibly shot BHS in the back — when Ignacio's forward stepped to the stripe for two tosses with 5:24 left in the first half.

Still, the 4A squad had to examine evidence surrounding its own play in a 39-38 loss — their second defeat this season at the hands of the 2A Coloradans. For after the opening tip, Bloomfield caught Ignacio as flat as they could only have hoped for, and led 16-7 after eight minutes (and as great as 16-1).

When Vigil finally did get into the scoring column — on a FT with 0:15 left — BHS's advantage was still double-digit wide after IHS's Jordan Cuthair hit her first freebie just before the buzzer.

Horrid shooting and Ignacio's invigorated full-court press whittled Bloomfield's lead down to an apparent 33-32 after 24 completed minutes on Don Cluff Court. The Lady Cats had moved out front, 29-28 on the scoreboard, via a Sky Cotton three-pointer following a Pam Cotton weakside put-in of a Vigil airball.

Bloomfield's Kallan Pablo missed her two tries after Vigil's dismissal, and teammate Trinity Mayo did likewise with 0:40 to go. But with 0:28 left, Pam Cotton unusually missed a pair, as did Simmons — giving BHS one last prayer with 0:04 left.

Fortunately for the black jerseys, Cotton (16 pts, 12 rebs, 7 blocks) had rejected a Pablo attempt in the paint, right into the hands of Simmons (7 pts), who was then hacked to stop the clock — and, for all practical purposes, forced Bloomfield to



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Pam Cotton (23) pulls in a rebound despite contact from Thoreau's Tristine Wilber during Day 2 action at the 2012 Webb Toyota/Kirtland [N.M.] Central Girls' Basin Invitational.

teammate Whitney Charley (6 pts) then sank a triple, but Pam Cotton drilled a late three to set up the final quarter.

Vigil (4 pts?) did bury a free throw to evidently tie at 33 with 6:48 remaining. Pam Cotton again crashed the boards behind Bloomfield defenders to lay in a Sky Cotton (5 pts) long-range miss, and then dropped in two FT's herself for a 37-33 lead with 4:40 left.

Tiffany Henry (6 pts), back from a first-half bang on the head, cashed a three to seemingly put BHS ahead at 38-37, but IHS's Michelle Simmons powered in for a layup in response and the (probable) lead.

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venture the floor's full length for a desperation heave.

With their first three San Juan Basin League games beginning three days later — including Jan. 13's trip to Norwood and a home game versus Nucla the next day — Ignacio improved to 3-3 overall (1-1 SJB) after having fallen to Thoreau, N.M., and Grants, N.M., at the Webb.

Top-ranked in 4A coming in, GHS greeted the Lady Cats as one would expect — a 70-40 rout. It could have been far, far worse had any number of their numerous three-point misses actually hit their target, but, like good Lady Pirates, they kept firing anyways.

Besides Vigil's tourney breakout, Pam Cotton and Valerie Armstrong each managed six points, but Simmons — double- and sometimes triple-teamed when she had the rock — was blanked. Guards Sydney Mares and Julie Gallegos each scored 13 for Grants, while 6-foot-2 sophomore Teige Zeller had 17.

Grants junior reserve Ashley Masters hit a 15-footer with 0:02 left to even out the final margin.

Having trailed by just 10-6 after a quarter with Grants, Ignacio's start was even better versus THS, and a Simmons breakaway layup with nine seconds left gave IHS a 13-12 lead after one.

But behind senior Felicia House (18 pts) and junior Tristine Wilber (11), the Lady Hawks recovered a 31-26 half-time lead, stretched it to as much as 15 (44-29) en route to leading 44-32 after three quarters, and ultimately rebuilt the advantage to the final 56-40.

In addition to Vigil's encore, the Lady Cats got eight points from Pam Cotton, six from Simmons, four from Cloe Seibel, and two from Sky Cotton against Thoreau — which also got 10 points from senior Roshawna Yazzie and seven from Claudia Perry.

FINAL WEBB PLACINGS: Championship — KC 56-54 (OT) over Grants. Third-place game — 3A Shiprock [N.M.] 35-34 over 5A Fruita [Colo.] Monument. Fifth-place game — Thoreau 47-39 over 4A Belen [N.M.]. Seventh-place game — IGNACIO over Bloomfield [N.M.].

NOTE: Ignacio's Lady Bobcats received the tournament's Sportsmanship Award... IHS's road game in league play at Dolores on Jan. 10 was completed after the Drum went to press.



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Sky Cotton (24) turns the corner against Bloomfield's Mariah Shelby (14) during IHS's seventh-place game at the Webb Toyota/Kirtland [N.M.] Central Girls' Basin Invitational.

Matmen greet '12 at RMI

By Joel Priest

Special to the Drum

The pin parade for Teagan Overturf resumed last weekend in Ignacio High School's first action of 2012.

Only problem was Del Norte's Austin McDonald had a similar idea, and prevailed in a key 152-pound clash at the 18-team Rocky Mountain Invitational, hosted by Pagosa Springs on Saturday, Jan. 7.

Ignacio's senior recovered to notch three pins more — over Aztec's Maverick Heater, Monte Vista's Mitch Vanderpool, and Antonito's Amos Abeyta — upping his season total to 19 out of his 20 victories, but the chance of a title at the popular event was gone, and he finished fifth despite a 4-1 mark.

The Bobcats, with eight competing, finished 12th overall with a total of 64.5 points and one individual champ. Center (75) bridged the gap to Bloomfield, N.M. (77), in tenth. With three champions, Aztec racked up 174 points and took the team title back to New Mexico. Centauri (160) was second, also counting three winners, and Bayfield (155) was third with one champion.

Senior Alex Pena went 4-0 at

126 pounds as IHS's unbeaten — senior Colton Wyatt was held out due to a pre-Christmas injury — and stopped AHS's Robert Escojeda 4-2 in the final. At 132, senior Jeff Herrera also saved a fifth place for Ignacio — losing his second match 3-1 to Durango's Nicholas Tarpley, but then bouncing back with two decision wins and a default from AHS's Jesse Mitchell to finish 4-1.

Junior Taylor Smith earned the Cats some points with his eighth-place result at 113 pounds, going 1-3, while Keith Joosten (106), Iaasic Pena (120) and Blaine Mickey (160) each went 1-2 and gained more experience in their initial high-school campaigns. Christian Knoll had a difficult draw and made an 0-2 early exit at 170 pounds.

Next for the Bobcats will be this weekend's 41st annual Rob Mickel Invitational, hosted by Salida, with a trip to Paonia's Screaming Eagle Invitational to follow on January 21.

2012 RMI CHAMPIONS: 106 — Jacob Palmgren, Del Norte (over Monte Vista's Diondre Garcia); 113 — Noah Trujillo, Antonito (over Durango's Dillon Anthony); 120 — Ethan Coombs, Centauri (over Widefield's Anthony Robb); 126

— Alex Pena, Ignacio (over Aztec's Robert Escojeda); 132 — Shane Wilson, Centauri (over Widefield's Jayme Wilson); 138 — Rio Escojeda, Aztec (over Monte Vista's Simon Schaefer); 145 — Shawn Beiriger, Del Norte (over Aztec's Casey Ford). 152 — Micah Keys, Centauri (over Bloomfield's Mikey Loy); 160 — Aaron Velasquez, Bayfield (over Monte Vista's Austin Vance); 170 — Adam Lucero, Aztec (over Del Norte's Josiah Simmons); 182 — Austin Wilcox, Monticello (over Bayfield's Jon Roberts); 195 — Rip Price, Air Academy (over Monticello's Nephi Barlow); 220 — Kyle Henderson, Aztec (over Sargent's Zack Morgan); HWT — Trevor Gillen, Durango (over Widefield's Justin Petrash).

TEAM STANDINGS: 1.Aztec, N.M., 174; 2.Centauri 160; 3.Bayfield 155; 4.Monte Vista 139.5; 5.Durango 139; 6.Del Norte 109; 7.Widefield 108.5; 8.Air Academy 101.5; 9.Monticello, UT, 98; 10.Bloomfield, N.M., 77; 11.Center 75; 12.Ignacio 64.5; 13.Antonito 59; 14.Pagosa Springs 51; 15.Sargent 40; 16.Espanola Valley, N.M., 36; 17.Unattached 27; 18.Taos, N.M., 25.